

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 EPA-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CU-05 EB-11 DRC-01

/130 W

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R 241540Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6642

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

ZEN AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

ZEN AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

ZEN AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

ZEN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

ZEN AMEMBASSY SOFIA

ZEN AMEMBASSY WARSAW

ZEN AMEMBASSY LONDON

ZEN AMEMBASSY PARIS

ZEN AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

ZEN USNATO

ZEN US MISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1751

E.O. 11652:, &\$

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, GW

SUBJECT: CHNOUPEK VISIT TO BONN AND CZECH-FRG DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: GERMAN AMBASSADOR RITZEL GAVE HIS NATO COLLEAGUES A FULL ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. ACCORDING TO HIS DESCRIPTION, THE CZECHS ARE PRESSING FOR AS MANY TIES, ON AS HIGH A LEVEL, AS THEY CAN MANAGE, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS THE CZECHS HOPE CAN TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. AGREEMENTS ARE IN THE WORKS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. RIZEL SAID THE GERMANS HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT  
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CHNOUPEK SPOKE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WITHOUT MENTION-

ING THE FRG ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN BERLIN. AT RECEPTION LATER, HOWEVER, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HRUZA, ASKED ABOUT CZECH-FRG RELATIONS, TOLD CHARGE THAT QUESTION OF FRG ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE WAS SERIOUS MATTER THAT WAS OF PRESENT CONCERN TO CZECH GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. JULY 23 GERMAN ABASSADOR RITZEL GAVE HIS NATO COLLEAGUES A FULL ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S VISIT JULY 18-20 TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE WAS PRESENT DURING THE VISIT. THE ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING THE EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FOR THE FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK TREATY WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL, RITZEL SAID. THE PRINCIPALS STAYED UP LATE DRINKING TOGETHER AND, AS HE PUT IT, "BECAME VERY CLOSE." SOME CZECH SUGGESTIONS SURPRISED THE GERMANS, FOR EXAMPLE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NUREMBERG-PILSEN AUTOBAHN. THEY ALSO SHOWED EAGERNESS AT ALL KINDS OF CONTACTS, AND MANY CZECH MINISTERS SEEMED READY TO GO TO BONN EARLY ON. HE HAD NOT BEEN BACK IN PRAGUE TWO DAYS BEFORE TWO MINISTERS TELEPHONED WANTING HIM TO COME BY TO SPEAK OF THEIR PROSPECTIVE VISITS. ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECTS OF THE TRIP WAS THE OPPORTUNITY (FORTUITOUS, SINCE IT HAD BEEN PLANNED EARLIER) FOR CHNOUPEK TO MEET OVER 200 LEADING GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE CHANCELLOR JULY 19. THESE CONTACTS WERE WHAT CLEARLY INTERESTED THE CZECHS THE MOST.

3. AMBASSADOR RITZEL LISTED THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS: (A) FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO COME TO PRAGUE. BUT RITZEL SAID HE DID NOT PLAN TO DO SO BEFORE THE SECOND HALF OF 1975. (B) REGULAR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD. FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KRAJCIR WILL GO TO BONN (THE CZECHS HOPE IN 1974, THE GERMANS HAVE NOT YET SAID). (C) FRIENDSHIP GROUPS WILL BE SET UP IN THE RESPECTIVE PARILAMENTS, AND THE CZECHS (INDRA) HOPE TO RECEIVE A TOP-LEVEL GERMAN GROUP LED BY MRS. RINGER, PERHAPS ALSO THIS YEAR. (D) CHNOUPEK INVITED THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY (WISHNEVSKY (PHONETIC), TO COME TO PRAGUE. HE SUGGESTED 1974; THE GERMANS HAVE NOT COMMITTED THEMSELVES YET.

4. EARLIER THIS YEAR PRELIMINARY TALKS (THE CZECHS CALLED IT A "SONDAGE") WERE HELD ABOUT A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. NOW THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CZECHS ARE PUSHING FOR FORMAL TALKS TO START SOON IN BONN, PERHAPS IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. THE AGREEMENT WILL COVER, INTER ALIA, EXCHANGES OF EXHIBITS, BOOKS, AND ARTISTS. RITZEL SAID HE HOPED FOR AN AGREEMENT BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. TALKS HAVE BEEN GOING ON ABOUT AN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE STICKING POINT IS THE QUESTION OF RE-EXPORT OF GOODS TO EC COUNTRIES. THE GERMANS SHOWED THE

CZECHS THE AGREEMENTS ON THIS POINT THEY SIGNED RECENTLY WITH HUNGARY AND BULGARIA, AND THE CZECHS ARE STUDYING THESE. IF THEY ACCEPT SIMILAR PROVISIONS, AS EXPECTED (PERHAPS AS EARLY AS AUGUST), AN AGREEMENT WILL BECOME POSSIBLE.

6. A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION PRIMARILY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WOULD LIKE TO VISIT GERMANY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. RITZEL SAID THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION ON THE CZECH SIDE, AS ALL MINISTERS SEEMED TO BE JOCKEYING FOR A POSSIBLE TRIP. THE GERMANS WOULD NOT TAKE A MINISTER A FORTNIGHT, HE SAID, BUT WOULD INSIST ON ONE LARGE GROUP, COMPOSED OF ONE OR MORE MINISTERS AND THE DIRECTORS OF A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROHLICEK WAS A PRIME CANDIDATE. THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S SCHEDULE WAS SUCH THAT VISIT DID NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE BEFORE NOVEMBER 17. (ASKED ABOUT A VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL, EARLIER DISCUSSED BETWEEN SVODODAY AND BRANDT, RITZEL SAID IT DID NOT COME UP AT ALL IN THESE TALKS). IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION, BOTH SIDES ARE HAPPY WITH AGREEMENTS NOW EXISTING BETWEEN GERMAN FIRMS AND THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.

7. RIZEL EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE THE IMPROVEMENT, MANY PROBLEMS STILL REMAINED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AS ONE EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE PROBLEM OF THE CZECHS OF GERMAN DESCENT WHO WANTED TO EMIGRATE TO THE FRG. THERE WERE 25,000 OF THEM ACCORDING TO FRG FIGURES, WHILE THE CZECHS SAID THERE WERE 600. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE RED CROSS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE A SURVEY AND ESTABLISH AN ARCHIVE OR REGISTRY THAT BOTH SIDES COULD WORK FROM.

8. DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS WAS VERY BRIEF AND STUCK TO KNOWN POSITIONS. ONE THING THAT HAS SURPRISED THE GERMANS WAS THAT THE CZECHS SPOKE FAVORABLY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION, DESPITE THE RECENT FURORE OVER THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN BERLIN. HE SAID CHNOUPEK REPEATED THEIR INTEREST IN COOPERATION IN THIS SPHERE WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE BERLIN MATTER. LATER JULY 23, HOWEVER, IN CONVERSATION WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HRUZA (CHNOUPEK IS ILL), CHARGE ASKED ABOUT CZECH-FRG RELATIONS AND HRUZA, AFTER SPEAKING OF GOOD PROSPECTS NOW EXISTING, STRESSED SERIOUSNESS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE PROBLEM. COMMENT: IT SOUNDED, AND GERMANS HERE TEND TO AGREE, AS IF CZECHS GOT OUT OF PHASE IN NOT MENTIONING THE BERLIN PROBLEM, AND HRUZA WAS SIGNALING THAT THEY WERE NOW ON BOARD WITH THEIR WARSAW PACT ALLIES ON THE QUESTIONS.  
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